

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O R 071157Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 958
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7557

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TU
SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO TURKISH PRIME MINISTER

REF: STATE 236949

1. I TALKED WITH SECRETARY GENERAL ELEKDAG MORNING OCTOBER 7.
I EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHED TO
BASIC POINTS SET FORTH IN THE PRESIDENT'S LATEST MESSAGE
TO PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL (STATE 236949). I ALSO EXPRESSED
UNDERSTANDING OF TOTAL PREOCCUPATION OF GOVERNMENT FIGURES WITH
BAYRAM AND FINAL DAYS OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN BUT ASKED FOR INDI-
CATION OF WHEN THESE OFFICIALS MIGHT BE IN POSITION TO MEET WITH
ME CONCERNING THE POINTS IN THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. FINALLY,
I INDICATED THAT I HAD JUST LEARNED THAT SENATOR JAVITS WOULD BE
WILLING TO COME TO ANKARA NEXT WEEK IF THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL
IN THE PRESENT SITUATION. (STATE 237652).

2. IN RESPONSE, ELEKDAG INDICATED THAT IN THE WAKE OF THE
CONGRESSIONAL VOTE AND THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER, SENIOR GOT
OFFICIALS, IN COORD-
INATION WITH TOP MILITARY LEADERS, OBVIOUSLY
HAD SOME EXTREMELY IMPORTANT DECISIONS TO REACH AND THAT
UNFORTUNATELY THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF THIS BEING DONE BETWEEN
NOW AND ELECTION DAY (OCTOBER 12). ELEKDAG ASSURED ME HOWEVER, THAT
HE HAD PERSONALLY READ CONTENTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
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OVER THE TELEPHONE TO PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL. ELEKDAG ALSO SAID

THAT WITH THE ELECTIONS NOT TAKING PLACE UNTIL OCTOBER 12, HE DID NOT SEE HOW IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO TALK SERIOUSLY WITH ME CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE PRIOR TO OCTOBER 15.

3. I INDICATED UNDERSTANDING OF THE TIMING PROBLEMS NOW FACING KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. I ACQUIESCED IN THIS PROPOSED SCHEDULE, WHILE AGAIN REITERATING IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO PROGRESS NOW IN (A) CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS AND (B) REACTIVATION OF CDI'S.

4. AS FOR POSSIBLE JAVITS VISIT, ELEKDAG NOTED SENATOR'S CLOSE PERSONAL ASSOCIATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL BUT INDICATED THAT A VISIT BEFORE OCTOBER 20 WOULD BE VERY INCONVENIENT FOR SENIOR GOT OFFICIALS. ELEKDAG SAID THAT UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES GOT WOULD OF COURSE WELCOME AN EARLIER VISIT OF SENATOR JAVITS BUT THAT IT JUST WOULD NOT BE PRACTICAL TO RECEIVE HIM BEFORE THAT DATE. (LATER IN THE CONVERSATION HE SAID HE THOUGHT EVEN OCTOBER 20 MIGHT BE A FEW DAYS TOO EARLY.) I NOTED THAT IF SENATOR JAVITS WAS ABLE TO COME HERE HE MIGHT WISH TO COMBINE THIS WITH A SIMILAR VISIT TO ATHENS. I EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN HOW THIS DUAL VISIT MIGHT BE PUBLICLY RECEIVED HERE. ELEKDAG IMMEDIATELY REACTED STRONGLY AND NEGATIVELY TO AN ATHENS STOP BEING COMBINED WITH A VISIT TO ANKARA. HE SAID IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE IF JAVITS' VISIT HERE COULD BE PORTRAYED BY LOCAL TROUBLEMAKERS AS AN EFFORT TO BE AN EMISSARY BETWEEN ATHENS AND ANKARA.

COMMENT: I REGRET THE PROJECTED DELAY IN MY BEING ABLE TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS WITH THE GOT. WHILE THIS COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF A STALLING TACTIC, I BELIEVE ELEKDAG'S JUDGMENT IS CORRECT AND THAT FOR THE PRESENT IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE TO PRESS FOR AN EARLIER MEETING. I THEREFORE THINK WE SHOULD LET THINGS STAND AS THEY ARE EXCEPT THAT (A) WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS OUR POINTS HERE WITH SENIOR STAFF LEVEL OFFICIALS WHO WILL BE SUBSEQUENTLY INVOLVED IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AND (B) I RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT PREPARE A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FOR CAGLAYANGIL FROM THE SECRETARY TO BE SENT SUNDAY NIGHT (IF THE FOREIGN MINISTER IS REELECTED AS IS EXPECTED), IN WHICH THE POINTS THE PRESIDENT MADE TO

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THE PRIME MINISTER ARE REITERATED.

I ALSO REGRET THAT THE TIME IS NOT REPEAT NOT RIGHT FOR A VISIT BY SENATOR JAVITS AS HE IS HELD IN GREAT RESPECT HERE AND I BELIEVE COULD BE VERY HELPFUL WITH FRANK, BEHIND-THE-SCENES, ADVICE TO HIS TOP LEVEL CONTACTS.

ON THE SUBJECT OF EMISSARIES GENERALLY, HOWEVER, (FROM

EITHER THE EXECUTIVE OR THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH), I SHOULD ENTER
A WORD OF CAUTION, EVEN FOR THE PERIOD AFTER OCTOBER 20TH.
IF IN MY CONVERSATIONS WITH SENIOR GOT OFFICIALS NEXT WEEK IT
DEVELOPS THAT THE TURKS ARE PREPARED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS
WE SHOULD AVOID HAVING AN AMERICAN EMISSARY PUBLICLY ON THE SCENE
AND NEEDLESSLY DRAMATIZING AMERICAN PRESSURE FOR TURKISH "GIVE"
BOTH ON THE ISLAND AND WITH RESPECT TO OUR COMMON DEFENSE
INSTALLATIONS. I DO NOT BY ANY MEANS RULE OUT THE UTILITY OF AN
EMISSARY COMING HERE LATER THIS MONTH. BUT I BELIEVE THAT A
DECISION IN THIS REGARD SHOULD AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF MY MEETING
WITH GOT OFFICIALS NEXT WEEK AND THEN A JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER
AN EMISSARY OR ADDITIONAL PRIVATE MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT
OR SECRETARY (OR A COMBINATION OF AN EMISSARY AND HIGH-LEVEL
MESSAGES) ARE THE BEST WAY TO PROCEED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, ARMS EMBARGO, CODELS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA07557
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750347-0865
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751076/aaaacpkz.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 236949
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <26 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO TURKISH PRIME MINISTER
TAGS: PFOR, TU, US, (FORD, GERALD R), (DEMIREL, SULEYMAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006